

S/N: 09/454,103

Atty Dkt No. SHEL 0101 PUS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Specification paragraphs as shown below. A marked up version of these changes is attached to this Amendment.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7 beginning on line 14 and ending on line 24 with the following paragraph:

With reference to Figure 3, relatively large diameter section 46 forming the inlet opening 10 arranged about axis 47 and the spaced-apart relatively smaller diameter tubular section 48 arranged about axis 49 forming the outlet opening 22 are in an axially offset relationship. In one embodiment of the present invention, axis 47 and axis 49 are parallel. The large diameter section 46 and the small diameter tubular section 48 are connected to one another by tapered section 50 which gradually blends from the large diameter section 46 to the small diameter section 48. Tapered section 50 intersects large diameter section 46 at elliptically-shaped junction 52 which lies in a plane inclined at angle A which is 60-85° from the axis of the tubular sections. The funnel inlet opening 10 has a diameter D_1 of 60 mm and the tubular section has a diameter D_2 of 25 mm with a coaxial offset at a distance X which is 15 mm. This offset axial relationship is sufficient to achieve fuel swirl during fuel filling.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-4, 6, 12, 14-16, 24 and 25 as shown below. A marked up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.

1. (Amended) A filler neck for receiving a fuel supply nozzle for a motor vehicle fuel tank comprising:

a one-piece seamless funnel member having a tubular body defining a relatively large inlet tube section arranged about a first axis adapted for attachment to a receptor for positioning the nozzle with respect to the large inlet tube section and a relatively small necked down outlet tube section arranged about a second axis adapted for attachment to

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the inlet of an elongated tubular member in communication with the fuel tank, wherein the first axis is parallel to the second axis and the relatively large inlet tube section in axial offset relation to the relatively small necked down outlet tube section and the positioning of the nozzle in combination with the offset axial relation inducing a sufficient swirl to the fuel being supplied so as to create a sufficient vacuum to prevent fuel vapors from escaping into the atmosphere.

2. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 1 wherein the inlet tube section is rolled over to create a surface to seal to the gas cap.

3. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 1 wherein the small necked down outlet tube section is barbed to adapt the tube section for attachment to a plastic tube insert.

4. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 1 wherein the small necked down outlet tube section is formed into a hose bead to adapt the tube section for attachment to a hose.

6. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 1 including the receptor and wherein the funnel member is drawn and provided with an attachment portion adjacent to the inlet tube section for attaching the receptor to the funnel member.

12. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 1 wherein the funnel member further comprises:

a relatively large diameter section forming the inlet tube section and a relatively smaller diameter section forming the outlet tube section and wherein the axially offset large diameter and small diameter sections are connected to one another by a tapered section which gradually blends from the large diameter section to the small diameter section.

14. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 12 wherein the funnel inlet tube section has a diameter D_1 and the tubular section has a diameter D_2 with a coaxial offset at a distance X where $.1D_2$ is less than X which is less than $.3D_2$, and where D_1 is at least one and a half times D_2 .

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15. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 14 wherein the funnel inlet tube section axial offset is sufficient to achieve fuel swirl during fuel filling.

16. (Amended) The filler neck of claim 1 wherein the funnel inlet tube section has a diameter D-1 and the outlet tube section has a diameter D-2 where D-1 is at least one and a half times D-2.

24. (Twice Amended) A method of filling a gas tank with fuel from a tubular member comprising:

configuring at least a portion of a one-piece seamless tubular member with axially offset parallel tube sections such that the configuration induces a sufficient swirl to create a hollow passage for venting vapors from the gas tank during fuel filling; and
filling the gas tank with fuel.

25. (Twice Amended) A filler neck for receiving a fuel supply nozzle for a motor vehicle fuel tank comprising:

a one-piece seamless funnel member having a tubular body defining in axially off-set parallel relation to each other a relatively large inlet tube section adapted for attachment to a receptor for positioning the nozzle with respect to the large inlet tube section and a relatively small necked down outlet tube section adapted for attachment to the inlet of an elongated tubular member in communication with the fuel tank.